

**LETCHWORTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


for the year

1952

including the

REPORT

OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Letchworth
Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman,

At the request of the Ministry of Health, and in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Orders, the following report is submitted. It is the thirty-fourth annual report on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of your district.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1952

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H. (also
Divisional M.O., Herts C.C.)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

ARTHUR JUMP, F.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

RUSSELL F. FORRYAN, M.S.I.A. (resigned September 10)

ALWYNE FIRTH, M.S.I.A.

HARRY KNIGHTON, M.S.I.A.

KENNETH A. BENNETT, M.S.I.A., R.P. (as from September)

STANLEY PAPE, M.S.I.A. (as from December)

CLERICAL ASSISTANTS :

MISS V. PAMMENTER

R. E. GRAY

DISINFECTOR AND RODENT OPERATIVE :

L. CARR

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 4,897 acres.

Inhabited Houses. There were 6,045 occupied dwellings according to the rate books at 31st December.

Population. The Registrar General estimates the civilian population for mid year 1952 to be 21,040, an increase of 380 persons.

Rateable Value. The rateable value is estimated to be £170,866 and the product of the penny rate as £676.

Vital Statistics

Births

		Total	Males	Females
Live births : Legitimate	...	291	137	154
Illegitimate	...	13	9	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	304	146	158
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The birth rate is 14.4, which compares with that of 15.3 for England and Wales. Last year the rate was 16.3.

		Total	Males	Females
Still births : Legitimate	...	4	2	2
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	4	2	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The still birth rate per thousand live and still births is 13.0 and compares with the rate of 22.6 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Total 190, Males 97, Females 93.

Ten less than last year. The crude death rate is 9 and the corrected death rate is 9.8 per thousand civilian population compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

Death from Puerperal causes. None and the maternal mortality rate is therefore nil.

Infant Mortality

		Under four weeks	Total under one year
Legitimate	...	5	9
Illegitimate	...	1	1
		—	—
Totals	...	6	10
		—	—

The rate per thousand live births is 32.9 and compares with the rate of 27.6 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were :

Ref. No.			Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	—	2
5	Whooping cough	... ..	1	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	1	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2	4
11	„ „ lung bronchus	...	6	1
12	„ „ breast	...	—	3
13	„ „ uterus	...	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		14	9
15	Leukaemia, leukaemia	... ..	1	1
16	Diabetes	... ..	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	14	25
18	Coronary disease, angina	... ..	17	6
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	—	—
20	Other heart disease	... ..	8	12
21	Other circulatory disease	... ..	8	8
22	Influenza	... ..	—	—
23	Pneumonia	... ..	6	3
24	Bronchitis	... ..	8	2
25	Other respiratory diseases	... ..	2	2
26	Ulcer, stomach and duodenum	... ..	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	... ..	—	2
28	Nephritis, and nephrosis	... ..	—	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	... ..	1	—
31	Congenital malformations	... ..	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	5	8
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	... ..	—	—
34	All other accidents	... ..	2	1
35	Suicide	... ..	1	—
			—	—
	Totals all causes		97	93
			—	—

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year : there were no deaths from diphtheria, measles or from diarrhoea (under two years of age). There was one death from whooping cough.

Tables I, II and III give comparative vital statistics for the years 1947 to 1952 inclusive. Death rates and birth rates are based on the Registrar General's estimate of the population unless otherwise stated.

TABLE I

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cancer						
No. of deaths :						
Males	16	19	14	15	18	22
Females	16	15	19	22	16	18
Death rate per 1,000 pop. ...	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.7
Puerperal Causes						
No. of deaths	1	1	—	—	—	—
Death rate, 1,000 births ...	2.6	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
No. of cases notified :						
Males	7	7	11	35	50	105
Females	5	12	7	10	25	27
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.6	0.9	0.88	0.33*	0.48*	1.0*
No. of deaths :						
Males	1	7	3	3	—	—
Females	6	2	1	3	—	2
Death rate per 1,000 pop. ...	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.29	0.0	0.1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
No. of cases notified :						
Males	2	2	1	1	3	2
Females	4	—	—	2	2	1
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.3	0.1	0.04	0.14	0.24	0.0*
No. of deaths :						
Males	—	—	3	—	—	—
Females	—	—	—	1	—	—
Death rate per 1,000 pop. ...	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.05	0.0	0.0

*Based on number of local new cases (1952 — pulmonary 22, non-pulmonary nil)

TABLE II

URBAN DISTRICT OF LETCHWORTH

	1921 census	1931 census	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 census	1952
No. of inhabited houses December 31								
Population—local estimate ...	2,708	3,897	5,182	5,455	5,621	5,777	5,887	6,045
No. of live births ...	10,832	14,808	20,129	20,261	20,797	20,800	20,750	21,036
Birth rate (based on local estimate of population) ...	219	217	374	320	337	296	337	304
No. of infant deaths ...	20.2	14.6	18.5	15.8	16.2	14.2	16.2	14.4
Infant mortality ...	12	9	7	12	9	7	8	10
Maternal mortality ...	55	41.4	18.7	37	27	14	24	32.9
No. of deaths ...	—	17.7	2.6	3.0	—	—	—	—
Death rate (local estimate of population): ... Crude	77	105	203	176	202	179	200	190
	7.1	7	10.1	8.6	9.7	8.6	9.6	9.0
					10.6	9.4	10.4	9.8
Population—Registrar General's estimate ...	10,302	14,454	19,880	19,950	20,330	20,730	census 20,321	21,040
Birth rate (based on Registrar General's estimate of population): ...	21.3	15.0	18.8	16.0	16.6	14.3	16.3	14.4
						13.5	15.4	13.6
Death rate (based on Registrar General's estimate of population): ... Crude	7.5	7.2	10.2	8.8	9.9	8.6	9.7	9.0
Corrected ...					10.8	9.4	10.5	9.8

TABLE III

ENGLAND AND WALES

	1921 census	1931 census	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 census	1952
Birth rate	... 22.4	15.8	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3
Death rate	... 12.1	12.3	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3
Infant mortality	83	66	41	34	32	30	29.6	27.6

One hundred and sixty smaller towns (25,000—50,000)

England and Wales

Birth rate	... 22.7	15.6	22.2	19.2	18.0	16.7	16.7	15.5
Death rate	... —	11.3	11.9	10.7	11.6	11.6	12.5	11.2
Infant mortality	84	62	36	32	30	29.4	27.6	25.8

LETCHWORTH URBAN

Birth rate (crude)	21.3	15.0	18.8	16.0	16.6	14.3	16.3	14.4
(corrected)						13.5	15.4	13.6
Death rate (crude)	7.5	7.8	10.2	8.8	9.9	8.6	9.7	9.0
(corrected)					10.8	9.4	10.5	9.8
Infant mortality	55	41	18	37	27	14	24	32.9

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(i) *Staff.* See list at front of Report.

For details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors reference should be made to the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Other services.*

Treatment Centres and Clinics. The Urban Council is responsible for the treatment of scabies and a clinic continues to be held as often as necessary at the Health Office in Gernon Road. There is no doubt that the early treatment of cases does

result in the incidence of this complaint being reduced. Arrangements have been made with the Baldock Urban, Hitchin Urban and Hitchin Rural Councils for treatment of cases from their districts.

Section 47 National Assistance Act 1948. No action taken during the period.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water.* Extensive works to the Bowring bore-hole were completed in the early part of the year.

In response to circular 170/47, issued by the Ministry of Health, I submit the following information :

- (i) (a) The supply has been satisfactory in quality.
(b) The supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (ii) The supply is sampled bacteriologically every two weeks, the samples being taken systematically at the pumping stations and from various points in the area of supply. The results are uniformly satisfactory. Chemical analyses are taken every four weeks and show little variation.
- (iii) There is no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) The supply is subjected to chlorination.
- (v) With the exception of five cottages at Radwell in the extreme north-east, and two houses and a petrol filling station and cafe at Jack's Hill to the south-west, all

the properties in the Urban District are provided with a direct piped supply of water from the Company's mains. There are no standpipes. The supplies from the private wells are kept under observation.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.* Works in connection with the scheme for the enlargement of the sewage works continued.

2. *Rivers and Streams.* No change.

3. (i) *Closet accommodation.* No change.

(ii) *Public cleansing.* The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. The house refuse is disposed of by "controlled tipping" at the Arlesey clay pits in the Biggleswade rural district.

(iii), (iv), (v) and (viii). These matters are fully dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(vii) *Swimming baths and pools.* (a) Public. The open-air swimming pool in the Norton Common continues to be well patronized, and there were 85,659 attendances during the year. A series of samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory, and the staff are again to be congratulated on maintaining a consistently high hygienic standard.

PREScribed PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	M/c linc No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	39	9	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	155	157	19	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	6	6	2	—
Total ...	—	200	172	25	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 110		Section 111		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of Prosecutions	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel	13	—	—	—	—	—
Making, etc.	...	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	14	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen	15	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	16	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	32	—	—	—	—	—

2.—Cases in which *defects* were found

Number of cases in which defects were found

Particulars	M/e line No.	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	6	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	4	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	5	4	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out- work)	12	11	9	1	—	—
Total ...	—	27	23	1	3	—

SECTION D. HOUSING

During 1952 the following premises were erected and occupied :

Council Schemes

Houses and Flats	154
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Other Persons

Houses and Bungalows	11
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					<hr style="width: 100%;"/> Total ... 165
--	--	--	--	--	--

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | 195 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 437 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... | 24 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 37 |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... | nil |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 20 |

Action under Statutory powers during the years :

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :							
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :							
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	21
---	-----	-----	----

Housing Act 1936—Overcrowding :

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	3
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	3
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	30
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	3
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	3
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	24

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :

(i)	Number of cases	...	...	...	...	nil
(ii)	Number of families concerned	...	...	...	...	nil
(iii)	Number of persons	...	...	...	...	nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work has always received much attention in Letchworth and during 1952 special attention was paid to meat inspection, the milk supply and the sale of ice-cream. Details will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Regulation 20. No action necessary.

Clean Food Campaign

No special campaign was instituted, but the systematic inspection of food shops and food-preparing places continues, and conditions were improved at a number of establishments.

Food Poisoning

- (a) Outbreaks due to identified agents :
Total outbreaks, nil ; total cases, nil.
- (b) Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :
Total outbreaks, 1 ; total cases, 6.
- (c) Single cases :
Agent identified, nil ; unknown cause, nil ; total, nil.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1952 the total of notified cases of infectious disease (after correction) were: Measles 291, whooping cough 110, acute pneumonia 10, scarlet fever 4, dysentery 9, food poisoning 6, and erysipelas 2. Measles was again markedly prevalent in the first and second quarters after the interval year in 1951. Scarlet fever with a total of four cases was again extremely low in incidence, with mild case severity.

The group of nine cases of (Sonne) dysentery were located in one children's institution. The six cases of food poisoning occurred in one family group, but despite full investigation the causal organism was never isolated.

No case of poliomyelitis was notified in Letchworth during the year.

For yet another year no case of diphtheria was notified. Despite its long continued absence from the district, the offer of infant protection by immunization continues to be accepted by a majority of parents.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	32(31)	9(8)	2(2)	1(1)	—	1	—	—
25—35	51(50)	11(6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	11(11)	5(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	4(1)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	105(93)	27(17)	2(2)	1(1)	1	1	—	—
Deaths allocated by Registrar General after final transfers					—	2	—	—

The totals of notifications are swollen by 113 inward transfers chiefly of quiescent cases undergoing retraining at the local Government Training Centre (figures shown in brackets). The actual number of local new cases notified were twenty-two pulmonary, non-pulmonary cases being nil.

CONCLUSION

The local death rate is again favourable, though the local birth rate is somewhat lower than would be expected for a population of under-the-average age distribution.

Exceptionally the local infant mortality exceeded for the year 1952 the national low record. Close scrutiny of all infant deaths showed this slight excess due to broncho-pneumonia. Maternal employment could be excluded as a possible factor here, but in two cases the families concerned were sharing houses. The infant deaths were not confined to any one period of the year.

I would again acknowledge every help from the chief officers of your Council and particularly my indebtedness to your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Arthur Jump, for his unfailing helpfulness and local knowledge. The completion of this report is again made easy by his most valuable assistance.

I am, gentlemen,

V. R. WALKER,

District M.O.H.

June 1953.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I submit my twenty-second annual report on the work carried out by the sanitary inspectors. Once again the smooth working of the department was interrupted by staff changes. Early in the year it became apparent that the increased number of animals slaughtered at the abattoir necessitated the appointment of a further inspector, and Mr. K. A. Bennett, of Woolwich, was appointed and commenced duties in September. Mr. R. F. Forryan, who had acted as my deputy for some years, resigned his post in September, having been appointed Meat and Food Inspector at Nottingham. His resignation was received with regret because he had proved to be a loyal and capable colleague. Mr. Alwyne Firth was promoted to fill the vacancy and the establishment was brought

up to strength by the appointment of Mr. S. Pape, of New-castle, who commenced duties in December.

Housing. The repair and maintenance of existing dwellings continues to be a problem, especially where the rent is "controlled." During the year the situation regarding building labour and materials eased to some extent and one Cottage Society was able to carry out some reconditioning—the provision of hot water and bathroom, etc.

Verminous conditions continue to be few in number and minor in character, and modern treatment methods are proving effective in dealing with insect pests.

The Council's policy in the provision and allocation of new houses has dealt effectively with overcrowding, and during the year under review no less than sixty-nine cases of overcrowding or bad living conditions were relieved by accommodation granted by the Housing Lettings Sub-Committee.

The Inspection of Meat and other Foods. The number of animals slaughtered at the Abattoir and Bacon Factory continues to increase, especially in relation to pigs, the average kill exceeding 2,000 a week. As far as is practicable animals are inspected at the time of slaughter, but killing continues until late hours, and frequently on Sundays.

The examination of bovine carcasses for *cysticercus bovis* does add to the inspection time. Two hundred and eight cases were found during the year, giving an incidence rate of 4.9%, which is the heaviest recorded since the examination commenced in 1949. This result does not necessarily mean that the attack rate in cattle has increased. The siting of the lesions is worthy of comment.

In 112 cases lesions were found in the head, being confined to the head in ninety-seven instances.

In 100 cases lesions were found in the heart, being confined to that organ in eighty-two instances.

In fourteen cases lesions were found in the diaphragm, being confined to that part in eight instances.

In six cases there were two lesions in the head and in two cases three lesions.

In thirteen cases there were two lesions in the heart, in three cases three lesions, and in one case four lesions.

In sixteen cases lesions were found in both heart and head.

In four cases lesions were found in both heart and diaphragm.

In one case lesions were found in head and diaphragm.

In two cases lesions were found in both heart, head and diaphragm.

The records of the incidence of mammary infection in cows continue to be kept and they indicate that since 1944 there is a reduction, especially in tubercle.

Supervisory work in connection with the Food Byelaws was carried out all the year and further improvements were effected at many establishments. The policy of giving advice to food handlers during routine supervisory visits continued.

The results of milk sampling proved that the supply was generally satisfactory, and effective liaison was maintained with the county staff and the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, the former being responsible for the control of pasteurizing plants and the latter of dairy farms. In 1951 action was taken with a view to preventing the deposit of crates of empty milk bottles on the highway verges, and it is pleasing to report that local traders continue to respond to the suggestion.

Most of the ice cream sold in the town is manufactured by large concerns specializing in its production and the sample results proved satisfactory. Routine visits of inspection were made to all premises selling ice cream, including the itinerant vendors. The sale of iced lollies also received attention.

General Sanitation, Nuisances, etc.

Complaints of nuisance continue to be varied, and systematic inspection of the district was taken to discover other nuisances. The Pix brook, which receives the whole of the surface water drainage of the town received attention with a view to reducing pollution to a minimum. Atmospheric pollution was dealt with and improvements were effected in two large industrial boiler installations.

The municipal caravan site on the Grange estate was established, all the twenty-nine sites being let, and this assisted in

dealing with the caravan problem. Much trouble was experienced, however, by nomad caravan dwellers using the old Icknield Way highway and land adjacent thereto owned by the British Railways Executive. This proved most difficult to control and the problem has not been solved at the time of writing.

Rodent Control

Most of the infestations proved of a minor character and the return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture revealed a position similar to the previous year. All the Council's undertakings received regular attention and the sewers continue to be remarkably free of infestation.

Infectious Disease

The normal investigations were carried out, the inquiries being particularly thorough in the case of food poisoning. Terminal disinfection is performed when necessary, but not as a matter of routine.

Swimming Bath and Paddling Pool

Samples were taken during the season to ascertain the condition of the water, with satisfactory results on all occasions. Both undertakings are kept under close observation during the summer months.

National Assistance Act, Section 50

One case was dealt with during the year, but even a single case entails many visits and much work.

Factories and Workplaces

The amount of work involved in this sphere is often overlooked, but in a town such as Letchworth the duties are many and of some importance. At a number of the factories the canteen facilities were improved and many of them are now of a high standard.

A number of workplaces and offices were inspected and the proposed legislation dealing with these establishments will undoubtedly expand the work required to be done. On the other hand, the problem is much more acute in the older towns.

STATISTICAL RECORDS

1st January—31st December, 1952.

GENERAL (under Public Health and Housing Acts) :

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ...	...	195
Houses reinspected under Public Health Acts ...	...	242
Houses inspected under Housing Acts ...	...	24
Houses reinspected under Housing Acts ...	...	13
Houses visited re defective dustbins ...	...	27
Housing Survey : Form A primary ...	...	—
" " " A secondary ...	...	63
" " " B primary ...	...	24
" " " B secondary ...	...	1
Visits re number of occupants ...	...	72
Movable dwellings inspected ...	...	52
Movable dwelling sites inspected ...	...	166
Nuisances investigated ...	...	143
Systematic investigations of district ...	...	68
Investigations re water supply ...	...	7
" re watercourses and ditches ...	...	30
" re sewers ...	...	52
" re industrial effluvia ...	...	10
" re industrial effluents ...	...	17
" re pigeons ...	...	3
" re poultry keeping ...	...	21
Visits and inspections of entertaining premises ...	...	9
" " " of swimming baths ...	...	33
" " " of paddling pool ...	...	9
" " " of waterworks ...	...	2
" " " of burial grounds ...	...	2
Smoke observations ...	...	39
Drains—smoke tested ...	...	24
Drains—water tested ...	...	19
Drains—colour tested ...	...	19
Visits to works outstanding and in progress ...	...	300
Visits to stables ...	...	3
Visits to piggeries ...	...	49
Visits to refuse tips ...	...	15

Visits re rodent infestation	...	...	...	...	1.052
Rat investigations in sewers	...	...	...	...	74
Visits to public conveniences	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	110
Samples of effluent submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	5
Samples of water submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of swimming bath water	...	...	...	...	18
.. .. paddling pool water	...	...	...	...	2
Building licensing	...	...	...	...	71
Food control	...	...	...	...	35
Food waste collection and salvage	...	...	...	...	27
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	3
Hostels	...	...	...	...	11

(c) *Infestations*

				Council Houses	Other Houses	Visits
Bugs	...	...	...	2	10	21
Fleas	...	...	...	—	—	—
Lice	...	...	...	—	—	—
Beetles and cockroaches	...	...	...	8	39	61
Flies	...	...	...	2	2	10
Mosquitoes	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other pests	...	...	...	66	144	349

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

Meat depot	...	78	Food preparing		
Butchers' shops	...	146	places	...	54
Butchers' vans	...	1	Dairy vehicles	...	45
Fish shops	...	38	Cowsheds	...	7
Other food shops	...	214	Ice-cream vendors	...	67
Cafes	...	61	Hawkers of other	...	
Bakehouses	...	22	foods	...	6
Dairies	...	78	Canteens	...	44
			Hotels	...	6

(b) *Carcases examined*

(1) At Abattoir :

Cows	931	Calves	1,800
Heifers	1,266	Sheep	8,193
Bulls	61	Pigs	107,314
Bullocks	1,961	Goats	1

(2) At shops, other premises and vans :

Beef Qs.		Calves	8
(i) English	117	Sheep	58
(ii) Imported	4	Pigs	474
Boneless mutton, 30 tons		Poultry	25

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food*

(1) At Abattoir :

24 cow carcasses	17 hindquarters English beef
22 other beasts' carcasses	
44 forequarters English beef	3,478lb. English beef
1 side English beef	68lb. English veal
514 beasts' heads	23 calf heads
1,448 lungs	33 calf plucks
291 hearts	4 lungs
914 livers	7 livers
252 kidneys	81 kidneys
450 mesenteries	14 spleens
285 spleens	17 mesenteries
1,423 other organs	114 other organs
292 pig carcasses	10 sheep carcasses
3 sides English pork	3 forequarters English mutton
142 forequarters English pork	5 hindquarters English mutton
52 hindquarters English pork	50lb. English mutton
7,980lb. English pork	

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food—(cont.)*

3,771 pigs' heads	11 sheep heads
2,620 plucks	74 plucks
17,201 lungs	58 lungs
5,651 livers	347 livers
4,435 kidneys	22 kidneys
4,779 mesenteries	14 mesenteries
3,614 spleens	13 spleens
7,133 other organs	143 other organs
33 calf carcasses	— goat carcasses
— forequarter English veal	— heads
4 hindquarters English veal	— plucks
— side English veal	— other organs
	Total weight 295,375lb.

(2) At wholesale depot, shops and vans :

164lb. English beef	1 can rabbit
100lb. imported beef	16 rabbits
93lb. English pork	3 fowls
1,215lb. imported mutton	3 cans tongue
1 beast's tongue	307 cans meat products
1 forequarter English pork	25lb. tripe
5 pigs' heads	24 veal and ham pies
3 plucks	581 cans vegetables
15 other organs	1 box kippers
30lb. bacon	6 English eggs
694lb. ham	38 imported eggs
103lb. sausages	4 bottles coffee
— cans beef	2 packets breakfast food
5 cans mutton	17lb. jam
9 cans brawn	10lb. preserves
217 cans pork	84lb. prunes

(2) At wholesale depot, shops and vans—(contd.)

166 cans condensed milk	801 cans fruit
1 can honey	60 cans fish
12 packets dried milk	2 boxes mixed fish
35lb. cheese	12 sponge cakes
149 packets cheese	1 bag flour
16lb. biscuits	1lb. butter
168lb. cake	1lb. margarine
1lb. rice	

(d) *Slaughter of animals*

Regular notices of slaughter received	...	...	...	1
Notices of occasional or emergency slaughter received				68

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED (EXCLUDING SHOPS)

		Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
No. killed	...	3288	931	1800	8193	107314	1
No. inspected	...	3288	931	1800	8193	107314	1

All Diseases except Tuberculosis

(1) Whole carcasses condemned	...	8	6	27	10	250	—
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	710	396	22	492	10682	—
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	21.8	44.2	2.7	6.1	10.2	—

Tuberculosis only

(1) Whole carcasses condemned	...	14	18	6	—	42	—
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	196	223	1	—	3642	—
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	6.1	25.8	0.4	—	3.4	—

Cow udder infection. As during previous years an examination was made of the udders of all cows slaughtered, and the results are as follows :

		Nine Years	
		1944/52	1952
Number of cows slaughtered ...		11002	931
Tubercular type lesions found in udder and/or supramammary lymphatic glands ...	...	392 = 3.5%	12 = 1.3%
Other udder infection ...	...	2147 = 19.5%	123 = 13.2%
<i>Total udder infection</i> ...		2539 = 23.0%	135 = 14.5%
Tubercular cows having mammary lesions ...	...	10.8%	5%
		(392 in 3617 cases) (12 in 241 cases)	

Applications for licences to slaughter animals ...	...	20
Number of licences granted to slaughtermen ...	...	20
Amount of fees received ...	...	£1

(c) *Milk Supply*

Five farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, one being licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk, and two for the production of Accredited milk. There are seven distributors of milk, five having premises within the urban district. Seven are licensed to retail Tuberculin Tested milk, two retailers are licensed to pasteurize and sell pasteurized milk. One dairy was re-equipped with new plant, and one dairy was improved.

Summary of results of milk samples taken :

		Tuberculin Tested milk	Accredited milk
Number taken ...	...	15	2
Methylene blue test satisfied ...	...	11	1
.. .. failed ...	...	4	1
B. Coli Absent in 1/100 ml. ...	...	—	—
Present ...	...	—	—

Summary of results of milk taken—(contd.)

			Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurized) milk	Pasteurized milk	Ordinary milk
Number taken	...	...	19	50	1
Methylene blue test—					
Number submitted	...	...	15	42	1
Satisfied	...	...	13	39	—
Failed	...	...	2	3	1
B. Coli—number submitted					
Absent in 1/100 ml.	...	...	—	—	—
Present	...	...	—	—	—
Phosphatase Test—					
Number submitted	...	...	19	50	—
Passed	...	...	15	48	—
Failed	...	...	4	2	—

Milk Acidity Tests

Number carried out at office	...	...	...	...	32
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	29
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	3

Special Samples

One taken.

Ice-cream

Methylene Blue Test

Number submitted	...	36	} Satisfactory
Classified at Grade I	...	24	
Classified as Grade III	...	6	
Classified as Grade III	...	5	} Unsatisfactory
Classified as Grade IV	...	1	

B. Coli examination

Number submitted	...	—
Absent in 1/10 gram.	...	—
Present in 1/10 grm.	...	—

Bacterial count—

Number submitted	...	...	—
Highest count	...	...	—
Lowest count	...	...	—
Average count	...	...	—

Chemical examination—

Number submitted	...	...	—
			% Fat w/w	% Solids not Fat w/w
Highest	—	—
Lowest	—	—
Average	—	—

Ingredient samples—

Number submitted	1	Satisfactory
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Lollies

Number submitted	1	Satisfactory
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FOOD SAMPLES

Brine (2) : No pathogenic organisms.

Beef (4) : No pathogenic organisms.

(f) *Adulteration*

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this area, the officer being G. F. Hart, Esq., and all complaints of adulterated food are referred to him. Several cases were dealt with, and a most helpful liaison was maintained.

FOOD BY-LAWS

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	45
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	2
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

General	...	...	...	...	...	74
Re Health Clinic cases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Specimens taken to laboratory	...	...	...	...	...	39
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nurseries	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of school notices sent	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) *Disinfection*

General cases	...	...	...	...	47 rooms
Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	61
Schoolrooms	...	...	...	...	1
Hospital Wards	...	...	...	...	—
Vehicles	...	...	...	...	—
Library books	...	...	...	...	31
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	4

Disposal of the Dead

National Assistance Act, Section 50

No. of cases	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of visits	...	...	...	...	...	5

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

		No. on Register	Inspections	Notices
Mechanical factories	...	155	157	19
Non-mechanical factories		39	9	4
Workplaces	...	45	17	2
Outworkers	...	63	1	—

Defects found and remedied

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	6	6
Want of ventilation	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	1	1
Other nuisances	9	9
Sanitary accommodation		
Insufficient	4	3
Unsuitable or defective	5	4
Other offences	11	9
Matters referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories	—	—
Matters referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories	3	—

PETROLEUM ACTS

Visits and inspections	36
Number of contraventions found	5
Number of contraventions remedied	5
Number of licences granted—	
(a) Petroleum spirit and products	42
(b) Carbide of calcium	4
Amount of fees received, £30/5/-.	

SHOPS ACTS

Number of shops on Register	234
Visits and inspections	74
Number of contraventions found	11
Number of contraventions remedied	12

GAME LICENCES

Visits and inspections	2
Number of licences granted	5
Amount of fees received, £1/5/-.	

PET ANIMALS ACT

Visits and inspections	8
Number of contraventions found	—
Number of contraventions remedied	—
Number of licences granted	1
Amount of fees received, 10/-.	

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	1
Number of licences in force	...	...	...	1

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS—BY-LAWS

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	32
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	—

OFFICES

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	25
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	—

The scope of the work carried out during the year is illustrated by the foregoing records and I thank all members of the staff for their help and keen interest.

ARTHUR JUMP,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Health Office,
Gernon Road,
Letchworth.
March 1953.

